

IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A method for providing an interactive program guide, comprising:
providing a plurality of transport streams, wherein each transport stream includes at least one elementary stream representing a respective interactive program guide (IPG) page, wherein each IPG page has associated with it a respective guide portion and a common video portion, and wherein each of said IPG pages has associated with it a first plurality of slices representing said common video portion and a second plurality of slices representing said respective guide portion; and

grouping elementary streams associated with related IPG pages within a common transport stream;

encoding said slices associated with said common video portion of said IPG pages only once;

encoding each respective plurality of slices associated with said respective guide portions of said IPG pages; and

associating, for each IPG page, said encoded common video portion slices and respective encoded guide portion slices.

10. (New) A method for providing an interactive program guide, comprising:
providing a plurality of transport streams, wherein each transport stream includes at least one elementary stream representing a respective interactive program guide (IPG) page, wherein each IPG page has associated with it a respective guide portion and a common video portion;

grouping elementary streams associated with related IPG pages within a common transport stream; and

providing for each of a predetermined number of IPG pages in a sequence of IPG pages one video frame for time incremented intra-coding and remaining video frames for time-incremented predictive coding.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, further including dividing each IPG page representative video frame into slices.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising separately encoding slices associated with said common video portion of said IPG page and slices associated with said respective guide portions of said IPG pages.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein each of said encoded guide portions of said IPG pages is adapted to be combined with said encoded common video portion of said IPG pages to form thereby a respective sequence of image frames.